

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 163864

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:ILO, UNGA, IS.

SUBJECT: ISRAELI VIEWS ON UN.

1. AT JULY 12 LUNCHEON CONVERSATION WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES, ISRAELI EMBASSY MINISTER BAR-ON DISCUSSED ISRAELI VIEWS ON UN SUBJECTS: (A) EXPRESSING CONCERN THAT NEXT GA MIGHT RESULT IN UNEXPECTED CONFRONTATION ON MIDDLE EAST ISSUES; (B) NOTING ISRAEL'S CONCERN OVER THE ILO ISSUE; AND (C) EXPRESSING GREAT DOUBT THAT THE UN AT THE NEXT ASSEMBLY COULD ADOPT ANY RESOLUTION ON THE DECADE AGAINST RACISM WHICH WOULD JUSTIFY WESTERN PARTICIPATION.

2. REGARDING MIDDLE EASTERN ISSUES, BAR-ON SAID "HE LOOKED DARKLY" AT GA PROSPECTS. HE READILY ACKNOWLEDGED
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THAT PROGRESS ON NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT ENCOURAGE A MORE MODERATE APPROACH BY THIRD WORLD AND CONSERVATIVE ARAB DELEGATIONS AT THE GA, BUT HE ARGUED THAT UNPREDICTABLE EGYPTIAN BEHAVIOR THE LAST COUPLE OF MONTHS SUGGESTED THAT IT WAS JUST AS PLAUSIBLE THAT PROGRESS ON NEGOTIATIONS COULD ONLY STIMULATE THE EXTREMISTS TO DEMAND MORE.

3. BAR-ON MADE CLEAR HIS MAIN CONCERN WAS EGYPT, WHICH HE ARGUED ENTERED INTO A MORE RADICAL PHASE IN MARCH, APRIL AND MAY. HE CITED AS EVIDENCE FOR HIS THESIS, PRESSURE FOR SECURITY COUNCIL MEETINGS, MILITARY VIOLATIONS OF THE TRUCE AGREEMENT, THE TONE OF STATEMENTS OUT OF CAIRO, FAHMI'S TRIP TO THE SOVIET UNION AND EGYPTIAN BEHAVIOR IN THE ILO.

4. REGARDING THE ILO, BAR-ON SAW THE EGYPTIAN ROLE AS CRITICAL. HE SAID THAT ISRAEL WAS ANXIOUS FOR A COMPROMISE OUTCOME AND THAT, IN DEALING WITH THE TEXT OF THE BLANCHARD LETTER, THE ISRAELI FOREIGN OFFICE HAS BEEN MORE MODERATE THAN THE ISRAELI ILO DELEGATION. THE ISRAELI LEGAL OFFICE HAS NOW EXAMINED THAT LETTER IN LIGHT OF THE CONFERENCE'S FINAL ACTIONS AND DOES NOT SEE MUCH OPPORTUNITY FOR A FAVORABLE INTERPRETATION WHICH WOULD PERMIT US TO SEE THE LETTER AS STILL VALID.

5. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION, BAR-ON SAID THAT WHETHER THE U.S. WITHDREW OR REMAINED IN THE ILO WAS OF GREAT CONCERN TO HIS GOVERNMENT. HE SAID THAT HE HAD RECEIVED NO INSTRUCTIONS FROM TEL AVIV BUT HIS OWN PREFERENCE WOULD BE FOR THE U.S. TO REMAIN IN THE ILO BUT IN A WAY WHICH WOULD PRESERVE FULL U.S. CREDIBILITY. HE ADDED THAT HE THOUGHT THIS SITUATION IF THE U.S. WITHDREW FROM THE ILO THIS "IDEAL" SITUATION IMPOSSIBLE TO ATTAIN AND HAD NO

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SOLUTION TO THE POLICY ISSUE THAT U.S. FACES. HE NOTED THAT IF THE U.S. WITHDREW FROM THE ILO, "GIVEN THE NEW ISRAELI GOVERNMENT," ISRAEL PROBABLY WOULD WITHDRAW AS WELL.

6. BAR-ON AGREED THAT TWO FACTORS WHICH MAY HAVE EXPLAINED THE UNEXPECTED RADICAL TURN OF THE ILO CONFERENCE WERE: (A) THE UNFORTUITOUS SCHEDULING IN TRIPOLI IN APRIL OF THE ARAB/AFRICAN LABOR MINISTERS MEETING; AND (B) THE OUTCOME OF ISRAELI ELECTIONS.

7. CONCERNING THE DECADE AGAINST RACISM, BAR-ON ARGUED THAT THERE WAS NO WAY COUNTRIES WHICH HAD OPPOSED THE ZIONISM EQUALS RACISM RESOLUTION (RESOLUTION 3379) COULD SUPPORT THE DECADE WITHOUT AN EXPLICIT REPUDIATION OF 3379. ADDITIONAL STEPS THE AFRICANS MIGHT TAKE TO PLACE DISTANCE BETWEEN THE 3379 AND THE DECADE WOULD NOT BE SUFFICIENT. BAR-ON ASSERTED THAT IF THE AFRICANS OFFERED PRIVATE ASSURANCES THAT THEY WOULD PREVENT THE ARABS FROM INTERJECTING THE ZIONISM RACISM ISSUE INTO THE DECADE'S ACTIVITIES, WE WOULD HAVE THE PROBLEM OF ENCOURAGING THE

AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO LIVE UP TO THEIR WORD. BAR-ON SAID HE HAD HAD PERSONAL EXPERIENCE IN PAST YEARS OF RECEIVING ASSURANCES FROM THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS ABOUT UN ACTIVITIES CONCERNING ISRAEL ONLY TO SEE AFRICAN DELEGATIONS IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ADOPT EXACTLY THE OPPOSITE POSITION. THE EXCUSE ALWAYS WAS THAT THE DELEGATIONS HAD NOT UNDERSTOOD THEIR GOVERNMENT'S POSITION OR THEY HAD MISINTERPRETED INSTRUCTIONS WHICH PROVIDED THEM GENERAL LATITUDE- HENCE THE NEED FOR AN EXPLICIT REPUDIATION OF THE EARLIER UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION.

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